GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1963
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
CROPS WITHOUT TESTING SOIL AND WATER
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most farmers are raising traditional crops without testing the soil and water resulting in losses;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to devise a scheme for testing soil and water etc., and to advise the farmers on raising crops; and

(c) if so, the details of fund provided by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The Government is promoting the location specific integrated soil-water and nutrient management practices to the farmers based on soil test and water quality and availability to optimize crop production. The Central Ground Water Board also regularly monitors the quality of ground water.

(c): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers was initiatedduring 1991-92 with an aim to promote soil test based application of fertilizers. Under the scheme funds amounting to Rs.16.86 crores were released to set up/strengthen 327 soil & water testing laboratories. The scheme has since been merged with Macro-management scheme during October, 2000 and the States can take up these activities through their Work Plans.